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The Papers read were—

1. *Communication to DR. SHAW from MR. FRANK GREGORY, on the Expedition from Perth to the North-West of Australia.*

MR. FRANK GREGORY, on arriving in West Australia to take command of his expedition, found difficulties in his way. The Imperial Government had granted 2000*l.* towards its expenses conditionally on an equal sum being raised in the colony. However, the Colonial Government were unwilling to take their share, unless certain modifications were made in the plan of the expedition, having reference to their especial exigencies. If Mr. Gregory had waited to refer this altered plan to the approbation of the Imperial Government, the season for travel would be lost long before he could obtain an answer. He therefore advanced the 2000*l.* out of his own funds, and applies to the Government in trust that they would authorize the change of plan and would repay him. He was on the point of starting, and his Excellency the Governor strongly seconds Mr. Gregory's application.

The CHAIRMAN, SIR R. MURCHISON, strongly commended the project of Mr. Frank Gregory, and had every hope that the difficulties alluded to would be overcome.

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The second Paper read was—

2. *Memoranda on North-East Australia*, by A. C. GREGORY, F.R.G.S.; with *Report on the Exploring Expedition to the River Burdekin*, by J. W. SMITH, R.N.

Communicated by SIR G. BOWEN, F.R.G.S., Governor of Queensland, through the DUKE of NEWCASTLE, F.R.G.S.

THE despatches from Sir G. Bowen enclose memoranda furnished to him, at his request, by Mr. A. C. Gregory, the Surveyor-General of Queensland, in which he describes in detail the capabilities and present condition of the chief positions in that colony. His Excellency, speaking of Maryborough, says—

“On the banks of the River Mary, as of all the other rivers of central and northern Queensland, there are vast tracts of country admirably adapted for the growth of cotton, of sugar, and of all other tropical and semi-tropical productions.

“Port Curtis is the best harbour, after that of Sydney, on the eastern coast of Australia. It was here that Mr. Gladstone, when Secretary of State for the Colonies, in 1846, founded a new colony, which was abandoned in the following year by Earl Grey on succeeding to office. However, in 1854, the Government of New South Wales again formed on the shores of Port Curtis a township which